

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	Sale of Personal Property by Private Individuals	DATE DISTR.	8 April 1954
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: 25X1X

1. It is customary for Soviets who need money to obtain it by selling personal effects or valuables to a purchasing store (skupochnyy magazin) or through a commission store.
2. Watches and other valuables are accepted for sale by commission stores. The only requirement is that a watch must either be made of precious metals or be Soviet-manufactured. Otherwise it must be sold to or through a watch repair shop where there are persons qualified to assess its value. This transaction is as legal as selling the watch through a commission store. All other valuables are accepted for sale by commission stores without regard to their place of manufacture.
3. When an article is received in a commission store, it is assessed by a clerk. If the price is acceptable to the owner of the article, he is asked to return in five or six days to see if it has been sold. The owner is required to leave his name, address, and telephone number with the clerk. No control is exercised over these transactions unless the same person repeatedly brings valuable items for sale. In such a case, the appropriate Militia office may be informed.
4. It is normal for Soviets to give false names when bringing items to commission stores for sale. This is done to avoid embarrassment. No difficulty is involved in giving a false name since no identity document need be shown and the store's receipt is sufficient proof to obtain the proceeds of the sale. Source himself has given false names to commission stores on a number of occasions.
5. These facilities for the sale of personal property are available also to foreigners in the USSR, including diplomatic personnel.

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